



2003 PRONGHORN ANTELOPE HUNTER INFORMATION BIG VALLEY HUNT (ZONE 5)

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GENERAL INFORMATION

This information has been prepared to assist people hunting antelope in Zone 5. The information should be useful for archery and rifle tag holders. Zone 5 is located in portions of Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, and Siskiyou counties.

REGULATIONS

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the regulations contained in the 2003 Hunting Regulations for Mammals and Furbearers. Remember you must obtain written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced.

PUBLIC LAND

Zone 5 contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Public lands within the zone are administered by the United States Forest Service (USFS); Lassen National Forest, 2550 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-5381 and Modoc National Forest, 800 W 12th Street, Alturas, CA 96101, (530) 233-5811 and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); 355 Hemsted Road, Redding, CA 96002, (530) 224-2100 and 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-5381.

ACCESS

There are extensive tracts of public land with excellent access in Zone 5. Primary roadways in Zone 5 are State Route 139 (eastern Zone 5), State Route 299 (central Zone 5) and State Route 89 (western Zone 5). Many county, USFS and BLM roads branch off of these primary roadways providing excellent access to public lands.

MAPS

The most comprehensive map of the area is the BLM surface management maps. The BLM surface management maps for Zone 5 are the Alturas, Eagle Lake, and McArthur maps. You can purchase all of these maps or limit your purchase to only those areas you plan to hunt. United States Geological Service (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially to depict topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps are usually available at backpacking and engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly in Menlo Park, CA at (650) 853-8300. USGS maps are also available online at usgs.gov. USFS maps are available at all USFS offices or you can contact the USFS, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592, (707) 562-8794; or order online at www.fs.fed.us/recreation/nationalforeststore/. BLM maps are also available at all BLM offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Room E2841, Sacramento, CA 95825, (916) 978-4400; or at 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, California 96130, (530) 257-2957.

TRAVEL TIPS

Zone 5 covers a large geographical area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged. As in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care when operating any vehicle off road and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area.

WEATHER

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. The weather is usually quite hot and dry, but summer thunder storms are not uncommon. Thunder storms can make roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel.

CAMPING

There are numerous designated campgrounds within Zone 5. The facilities available at these campgrounds vary from primitive campsites to campsites with running water. Most campgrounds are clearly marked on USFS and BLM maps. Camping outside of designated campgrounds is usually

permitted on BLM and USFS lands. However, during fire season, special regulations may apply and it will be necessary to obtain a fire permit from the USFS or BLM. You can also check with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection office for rules in specific areas. Please DO NOT CAMP at springs or other water sources that are important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining at artificial wildlife water sources (guzzlers) can be a Fish and Game violation. YOU can pack water--birds and animals can't!

WHERE TO LOOK FOR ANTELOPE

Pronghorn antelope use open areas with little cover. They are usually found in flat to rolling country, and not too far from water. Antelope run to gain distance from perceived threats. Unlike deer, they do not seek close hiding cover. When scouting or hunting antelope, keep the sun at your back while its low in the sky (morning or evening). Pronghorn antelope are usually very easy to see at distances of a mile or more under good light conditions.

Because pronghorn antelope are creatures of open habitats, you can hunt them all day. However, you run the risk of exhausting yourself. Try to pace yourself and concentrate hunting mornings and evenings. Stalking can be a long process, so remember to bring gloves, knee and elbow padding to protect yourself from sharp rocks. Binoculars and spotting scopes can be a great asset for observing antelope at long distances. Popular areas to look for pronghorn antelope are Fox Mountain, Big Valley, Pitville Flats, Beaver Creek, Bald Mountain, and Dixie Valley. Scouting other areas can help you locate an out-of-the-way site that may have less hunter pressure and fit your style of hunting.

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